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# Raid organizer hinted CIA OK, Black jury told

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NEW ORLEANS — An admitted member of a mercenary band allegedly seeking to overthrow the government of Dominica says he was under the impression the U.S. government might be sanctioning the plot.

Michael Perdue, organizer of the band, "didn't actually come out and say it, but he put the seed of suspicion in my mind that possibly the CIA (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency) might have been involved in this," Christopher Anderson testified Wednesday.

Anderson, 41, of Oklahoma City, and six other men have pleaded guilty to a single federal charge in connection with the alleged coup attempt.

Don Black, 27, of Birmingham, Michael Stanley Norris, 21, of Tuscaloosa, and Joe Daniel Hawkins, 37, of Smith County, Miss., refused to plead guilty and are standing trial on seven federal charges resulting from their arrest as part of the alleged raiding party.

All 10 men were arrested near New Orleans and later were indicted by a federal grand jury.

THE GOVERNMENT claims that at the time of their arrest the 10 were about to board a boat for Dominica to initiate the takeover of the govern-

ment of Prime Minister Eugenia Charles.

The group planned to reinstall deposed Prime Minister Patrick John, according to the indictments.

The men were charged with conspiracy to break the law, plotting the invasion of a country friendly to the United States, and five violations of federal firearms and explosives laws.

Anderson testified Wednesday that Perdue, who pleaded guilty in the case and testified Tuesday against Black, Norris and Hawkins, never actually said the operation was sanctioned by any U.S. agency.

"But he (Perdue) did say he had a friend in the (U.S.) State Department in New Orleans," Anderson testified Wednesday.

ANDERSON SAID during the third day of the trial that he first met Perdue when in February he answered an advertisement in *Le Mercenaire*, a newsletter for soldiers of fortune.

He said Perdue flew him to Houston to discuss the operation.

"He told me we were going to overthrow the government of Dominica," a small Caribbean island of 80,000 blacks, said Anderson.

He quoted Perdue as saying that "I would like to have a bloodless coup, but who knows what could happen?"

Anderson said Perdue told him at

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